

CLAIMS:

1. An apparatus for reforming the free resinous lip portion of a seal having the resinous portion securely held with respect to at least an outer case, said apparatus including a frame unit having two leg portions and a generally central backbone portion, a slot in at least said backbone portion, an axle in said slot in said backbone, a pair of axles for said leg portions, a roller unit received over each axle, and adjustment means for at least said axle in said backbone, two of said roller units being guide rollers circumferentially spaced apart relative to said outer case, said one roller unit being a reforming roller adapted to engage said free resinous lip portion of said seal and to press said resinous lip radially toward said two guide rollers, said reforming roller being adjustable so as to exert varying degrees of radial force on said free resinous lip portion.

2. An apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein said resinous lip is crimped between and inner case and said outer case.

3. An apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein said reforming roller presses said resinous lip radially outwardly.

4. An apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein said reforming roller presses said resinous lip radially inwardly.

5. An apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein said frame unit has an additional slot in each leg portion.

6. An apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein said guide roller each includes at least one flange on the axial end portion thereof.

7. An apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein said guide roller each includes two flanges on said roller, one flange on each axial end portion thereof.

8. An apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein said axles each includes a fastener securing said axle to said form.

9. An apparatus as defined in claim 5, wherein each axle has associated therewith an anti-friction means between said roller and said frame.

10. An apparatus as defined in claim 6, wherein each axle has associated therewith an additional anti-friction means between said roller and said axle.

11. A method of temporarily reforming the profile of a resinous sealing lip in a seal assembly having at least one resinous sealing lip securely held with respect to an outer case, said method comprising positioning a seal including said cases between two guide rollers spaced circumferentially apart on the outer diameter of said seal, positioning a third, reforming roller between said two rollers and in a position of engagement with said resinous lip so as to cause said lip to be disturbed from its relaxed position and toward a larger inner diameter, and rotating said seal assembly relative to said third roller repeatedly while said third roller engages said resinous lip, thereby causing said resinous lip to be bell-

mouthed and temporarily deformed to a larger inside diameter, and thereafter promptly installing said seal in an application.

12. A method as defined in claim 11, wherein said seal assembly includes an inner case.

13. A method as defined in claim 8, wherein said seal assembly is rotated and said rollers remain in a fixed position.

14. A method as defined in claim 8, wherein said rollers are rotated and said seal casing remains in a fixed position.

15. A method as defined in claim 8, which includes the step of repositioning said third roller to a second larger diameter after reforming said lip to a first, larger diameter.

16. A method of temporarily reforming the profile of a resinous sealing lip in a seal assembly having at least one resinous sealing lip securely held with respect to an outer case, said method comprising positioning a seal including said cases between two guide rollers spaced circumferentially apart, positioning a third, reforming roller between said two rollers and in a position of engagement with said resinous lip, forcing said third roller radially inwardly against said resinous lip so as to cause said lip to be disturbed from its relaxed position and toward a smaller outer diameter, and rotating said seal assembly relative to said third roller repeatedly while said third roller engages said resinous lip, thereby causing said resinous lip to be bell-mouthed and temporarily deformed to a smaller

outer diameter, and thereafter promptly installing said seal in an application.

17. A method as defined in claim 16 in which said seal assembly includes an inner case.

18. An apparatus for reforming the free resinous lip portion of a seal, said apparatus including a bifurcated first part supporting first and second rollers on one end thereof and having an opposite end forming a grasping surface, a second part having a roller at one end and a grasping surface on the other end, pivot means holding said first and second parts together, whereby said movement in a first direction of said grasping surfaces results in movement in the opposite direction of said rollers, means for positioning a seal between said rollers such that two of said rollers engage the casing portion of said seal and the third roller engages said resinous lip, whereby said lip may be urged to a different diameter.

19. An apparatus as defined in claim 12, wherein at least two of said rollers each includes a flange on the outside end thereof, to prevent said seal from coming free from said apparatus.

20. An apparatus as defined in claim 12, wherein said apparatus includes means for positively urging said two grasping surfaces apart, said means being readily adjustable by hand.

21. An apparatus as defined in claim 14, wherein said means includes a threaded rod with at least one knob on the end portion thereof.